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SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 7 September 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have been informed that the visit of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, to Sarajevo has been postponed for security reasons. The Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina reaffirms its readiness to guarantee the safety of His Holiness during his visit to Sarajevo and all other regions under the control of the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. President Alija Izetbegovic would have accompanied His Holiness from his first steps at Butmir Airport as well as at all times during the visit to Sarajevo. This commitment is unwavering.

On the other hand, the threats of the Karadzic forces directed at His Holiness have been given legitimacy by the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in openly discouraging this most noble and beneficial of planned visits to Sarajevo. We are dismayed that these threats have taken precedence both over our Government's, and our President's personal, commitment to the safety of His Holiness and over the will of UNPROFOR to promote the interests of peace in the country. UNPROFOR's willingness to capitulate to Karadzic's claim that he could not guarantee the safety to His Holiness only further encourages Serbian defiance to all rules and principles of international law.

A visit by His Holiness to the battered and besieged capital of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina would have great significance not only to the Catholic community of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but to all peoples of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as His Holiness is a symbol of tolerance, coexistence and tranquillity for all peace-loving peoples throughout the world.

It seems that in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina there are two classes of visitors: those who are allowed to come by the Karadzic Serbs and those who are not welcome by the Karadzic Serbs. This unfortunately appears to be increasingly the only criteria employed by UNPROFOR in its decision-making process, even when applied to universal men of peace. We request you urgently to review this situation and its inevitable consequences.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative